

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hans-Dieter MÜLLER  
Serial No.: New  
Filing Date: August 1, 2001  
For: MACHINE TOOL WITH GRIPPER AND/OR  
TOOL MAGAZINE SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (amended) A gripper according to claim 6, characterised in that in grasping said tool said contact surface of said first member first engages in said annular slot, groove, recess or shoulder of said tool or tool shank, and said second member previously, simultaneously or subsequently grasps the surface of said tool shank or tool with a clamping action.

Please kindly cancel claims 23 and 24.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

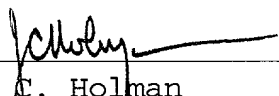
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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JCH/ccm

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

18. (amended) A gripper according to [any of preceding claims 6 to 17] claim 6, characterised in that in grasping said tool said contact surface of said first member first engages in said annular slot, groove, recess or shoulder of said tool or tool shank, and said second member previously, simultaneously or subsequently grasps the surface of said tool shank or tool with a clamping action.